

**PRESENTATION OF THE
FLEX YOUR POWER ENERGY AWARD
TO THE SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REMARKS BY
AILEEN ADAMS, SECRETARY
STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY**

**CARMICHAEL, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 27, 2002**

On behalf of Governor Davis, I am very proud to present a 2002 Flex Your Power Energy Conservation Award to the San Juan Unified School District – the first school district in the State of California to receive this distinction. I am thrilled to be here this evening, because I really wanted to honor everyone in the San Juan Unified School District who participated in this extraordinary effort to save energy.

It is widely recognized that a major reason that our state avoided blackouts last summer was because people like those in the San Juan Unified School District responded to the Governor's call to action. Millions of Californians like you made possible the most aggressive and effective energy conservation campaign in history. From CEO's to school children, from janitors to building owners, from non-profits to cities and counties, people throughout the state rose to the challenge and reduced electricity consumption by almost 7% overall statewide, and 10% overall at peak.

Our agency was pleased to coordinate energy conservation at the state level. The scope of action was remarkable:

- In 2001, State government led the way by reducing its own energy use in major buildings by more than 20% -- and we're still doing it today.
- The state also enacted the most energy efficient building standards in the country, which are saving more than 200 megawatts a year.
- Every Cabinet officer made energy conservation a priority. State newsletters, mailings, websites, and even telephone on-hold messages provided information on energy conservation and efficiency. For example, some 20 million envelopes with energy conservation messages were sent out by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- We also had a remarkable multi-media advertising campaign, which reached 95% of adult Californians through television, radio, and newspaper ads. This ad campaign reached every corner of the state, encouraging all Californians to Flex Their Power. And they did.
- Our Agency had remarkable partners. Collaborating with the California Arts Council, we helped hundreds of schools teach about the importance of energy conservation through art, theater, and music. Tens of thousands of school children completed home energy audits that we developed in partnership with the California

Energy Commission. Thousands of businesses, like Sears, Home Depot, and McDonald's, collaborated on various energy conservation initiatives.

Partnerships are what good government is all about. I know that your school district partnered with SMUD on some projects, and that SMUD in turn nominated the district for the Flex Your Power award. To give another example of how SMUD is an outstanding leader and partner, just this morning, we unveiled the largest single rooftop solar energy array in the United States at the Franchise Tax Board – a public private partnership involving two state agencies, SMUD, and Power Light, a manufacturer of photovoltaic panels. Partnerships with innovative leaders are how we get things done.

The San Juan Unified School District mirrored the overall state conservation campaign in so many ways:

- Your school facilities cut their electricity use by 14% and natural gas use by 23% last school year.
- You implemented a “dark schools” campus policy to reduce exterior lighting at night.
- 15 district school teachers received a total of \$31,000 in energy education grants, and four schools are participating in the Alliance to Save Energy's Green Schools program.

And now, you can travel to schools throughout this district and see the wonderful results.

- At the Cottage Elementary School, 4th Graders use special science kits to conduct experiments to learn about the creation, distribution, and conservation of electricity.
- At Barrett Middle School, you can see a beautiful energy conservation mural that was researched and designed by nearly 60 8th grade students. Or you can visit the Will Rogers Middle School and see student energy patrols walking the halls, leaving positive messages in classrooms that are conserving energy and reminders in rooms that could use energy more wisely.
- At El Camino Fundamental High School, students conducted science research and lab experiments dealing with the heating and cooling rates of water and insulated and non-insulated metal containers and identified energy conservation strategies.

This school district is shaping the futures of so many school children, who will grow up more aware of their role as true stewards of the environment. May these children and their children and their children's children be the legacy of our labors. They now know that *saving energy is a way of life*.

Governor Gray Davis said last week, "[The Flex Your Power] award recipients went beyond the call of duty and made decisions and changes that achieved outstanding, energy-saving results." I congratulate your outstanding staff, from Superintendent General Davie, to the School Board, to John Palmer, the District's Director of Planning, to principals like Monty Muller. The panel of Cabinet members who made the selection recognized San Juan Unified for the following achievements:

The San Juan Unified School District passed a resolution that called for an 8% reduction in energy consumption and approved the formation of a multi-disciplinary team to develop a district-wide Energy and Resource Conservation Plan. The team consisted of teachers, as well as facilities, custodial, and administrative employees. Through the use of energy accounting software and new facility management practices, the District reduced its energy consumption by 13% and its natural gas usage by 24%. In addition, 15 district teachers received energy education grants totaling \$31,000 from the State and Consumer Services Agency, which helped spread energy conservation lessons to students.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this award in person, and keep up the outstanding work!